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ECONOMY DRIVE

Our scientists held back . . .

The government's decision to cancel the intense neutron generator project at Chalk River is a matter of sorrow rather than anger. The ING, had it been built, would have given Canadian research in physics and medicine a whole new dimension, with consequences that could not be foreseen precisely.

Certainly no daily newspaper is equipped to make a clear judgment on the potential value of this kind of project. Nor are the political leaders and their senior advisers in the civil service, men whose training and experience exclude profound knowledge of frontier science.

This was the problem C. P. Snow discussed in his famous lectures on Science and Government. Judgments about the allocation of resources for scientific projects must be made by men who do not understand them, and communication between the two worlds of science and government hardly exists.

It was to help build a bridge between the two worlds that the Pearson government established the Science Council of Canada. The council recommended that the ING project go forward — but only if the cost seemed likely to be held "within reasonable limits."

The cost was estimated at about \$20 million a year both during the construction phase and later for operation. This, the government decided, was too rich for Canada's blood.

The decision on ING is one of a series in which the federal government has stopped valuable scientific projects for economic reasons, another being the cancellation of the Queen Elizabeth telescope. Such decisions raise valid questions, expressed by opposition members in the Commons, about the methods by which the government sets its science policy and relates scientific priorities to competing claims on the treasury.

A full and candid statement of policy in this field would be helpful to scientists and laymen alike.

... while Russia gains

Russia's successful moon shot does credit to that country's vast accumulation of scientific skill. More important, it is a measure of the Soviet Union's enormous investment in space studies. The United States, in contrast, has been cutting back.

National prestige is not the sole consideration in the space race. Military and economic factors are involved.

Space exploration has brought improved communication, and will no doubt also result in better weather forecasting. It side effects have included great advances in metallurgy, chemistry, and electronics. The West cannot afford to fall behind in these fields.



Rebels return

'Silly old fools' win the day at British Liberal rally

By Don McGillivray

Southam News Services

EDINBURGH — It doesn't look as though the anarchists, Trotskyites, Maoists and non-Communist Marxists of the student protest movement will be taking over the world after all.

They have failed at least in an attempt to take over the smallest, most decrepit and most defenceless of British political parties. And it wasn't because the British Liberal party fought back, but because of built-in weakness and contradictions of the protest movement.

The story of the Liberal party and the young "Red Guards" goes back two years, when the first frontal assault was made and the first successes scored. At last year's Liberal conference at Blackpool, the Red Guards were even more in the saddle. This summer, when Jeremy Thorpe invited "Marxists" to leave the party, he was almost toppled from the Liberal leadership.

The weakness of the Red Guards was not exposed until last week when the Liberal party went to Edinburgh for its annual assembly. The radicals decided to challenge the whole process of "establishment" decision-making by holding a rival "free assembly" in a nearby hall, 48 hours of non-stop discussion, folk-singing and guerrilla poetry reading, without the bureaucratic restraints of agenda, rules or chairman.

The first surprise was numbers. At the last two party assemblies, the Red Guards were so vociferous that they

seemed to fill half the seats. But isolated in their own free assembly, they proved less formidable. At the start the 25 radicals who turned up for the free discussion were outnumbered two to one by the press.

The numbers eventually rose to about 120, compared with the 1,200 delegates to the main convention. But instead of going on for 48 hours non-stop, the radicals soon ran out of steam and took two hours off for tea. Later they adjourned for the night.

The discussion itself was rambling and incoherent, consisting mainly of clichés about campus democracy, workers' control and confronting "the system."

But it was more lively than the main convention, droning away about economic and foreign policy. To go from the creaky Liberal peers and men in wing collars who knew Lloyd George to the bearded youths in blue jeans was like moving from the geriatric to the psychiatric ward.

The Red Guards seemed to feel an obligation to provide some sensation for the television cameras of three networks and the busy pens of reporters. Some descended into self-conscious four-letter language. One called the Argyll and Sutherland Regiment — due for the chop in Britain's economy cuts unless a massive Scottish petition can save it — a "bunch of bloody butchers."

Another youngster concluded that most workers are halfwits because they were more interested in a couple of ex-

tra quid in the pay packet than in advanced plans for participation in management.

Students were just as bad, a Cambridge undergraduate announced. In fact, it had been decided this summer by radical students that violence must be used at Cambridge since the majority of students were so conservative and apathetic. He couldn't say more, since the press was present.

The Liberal party got its share of knocks. The party assembly was "boring and irrelevant" and the leadership "hopeless."

"I'd rather listen to Danny Cohn-Bendit than Jeremy Thorpe," said one long-haired youth who is, strangely enough, a nominated Liberal candidate for Parliament. "I have no loyalty to any stupid Liberal party."

The discussion kept coming back to student power, which most of those present seemed to consider the ultimate problem of the modern world.

"What happens in the Hornsey College of Art will very largely determine what happens in England over the next few years," intoned one Hornsey rebel.

Somebody at the back of the smoke-filled room objected that it was undemocratic to have a microphone passed from speaker to speaker. It meant that the person with the microphone had the floor and other people didn't.

The microphone was switched off and everybody took the floor at once in a

confused babble of voices. Eventually, the objector was persuaded to let the microphone be used again, but not before somebody else suggested in a foghorn voice that the free assembly become two assemblies — one of talkers and the other of listeners.

The free assembly petered out long before the 48 hours were up, ending with an acrimonious discussion of what to do next. Some suggested the young radicals should go back to the main convention to "make a positive contribution" by disruption if necessary, since they were clearly unable to control it.

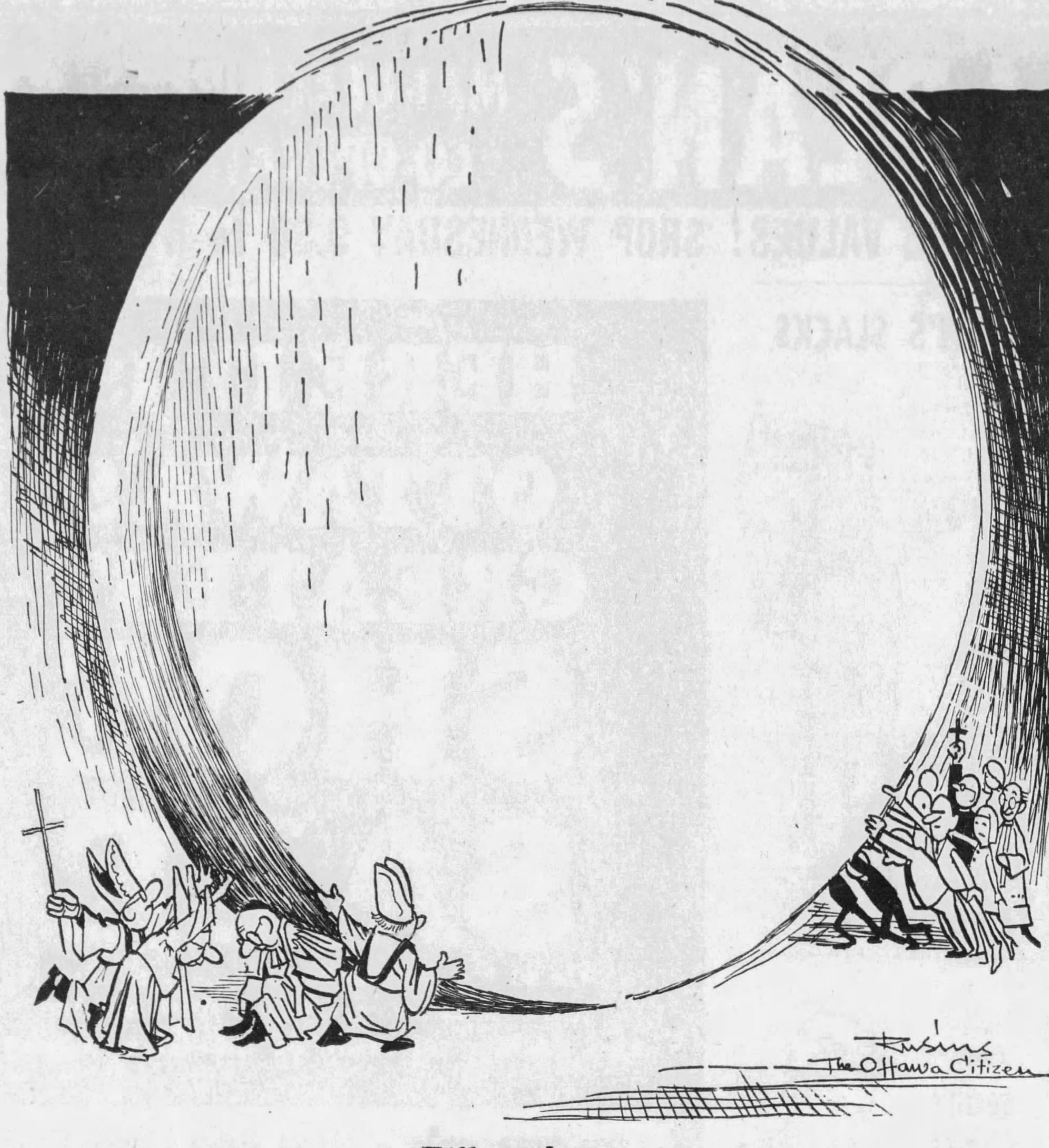
More revolutionary spirits opposed this: "Some of the old men of the Young Liberals want to drag us back into the Liberal party and we mustn't let the old men do it." There were shouts of "Rubish!" and "Fascists!"

One older Liberal, a constituency president, showed up to plead with the youngsters to work for the party "or, for goodness sake, get out of it."

"A lot of good, hard-working Liberals are very disillusioned because of you, and it doesn't help when you call them a pack of silly, old fools."

He was ignored as the revolutionaries continued to argue. Eventually a show of hands favored going back to make a "positive contribution."

"All right — let the dictators run things," shouted one of the blue-jeans brigade as he and some kindred spirits stamped out in protest at the decision.



Pill pushers

CATHOLIC PARENTS REBEL



By Ben Malkin

Citizen editorial writer

Canada's Roman Catholic communion is sharply split on the birth control issue. The current bishops' meeting in Manitoba is unlikely to make much difference, judging by experience in a number of countries.

Whatever the Vatican's views on birth control, people in both Catholic and non-Catholic countries will go on doing what comes naturally. Economically advanced nations with high literacy rates will have a low birth rate; those in more backward regions will have a high rate, reaching an explosive three per cent a year in tropical South America.

But this conclusion, reached by the Population Reference Bureau, an advocate of birth control, argues that the encyclical is unrealistic only in that it "offers conscientious

to restrain population growth.

Even the Vatican recognizes this need in principle.

Pope Paul's encyclical says: "Too frequently an accelerated demographic increase adds its own difficulties to the problems of development: the size of the population increases more rapidly than the available resources, and things are found to have reached apparently an impasse . . . It is certain that public authorities can intervene, within the limit of their competence, by favoring the availability of appropriate information and by adopting suitable measures, provided that these be in conformity with the moral law."

The Population Reference Bureau, an advocate of birth control, argues that the encyclical is unrealistic only in that it "offers conscientious

Catholics just two means of birth control — complete or periodic abstinence."

In fact, judging by results, conscientious Catholics have long ignored the official Catholic view. A United Nations study in six Latin American countries has disclosed that among Catholic women, those who are regular churchgoers have fewer births than those who are not, the difference being attributed to a higher literacy rate.

Altogether, the 11 Roman Catholic countries of Europe have an annual average birth rate of only 18.1 babies per 1,000 people, compared with 18 for the 15 non-Catholic countries. Even Italy, home of the Vatican, has only 18.9, and parts of northern Italy — the most industrialized and literate section of the country — record some of the lowest re-

gional birth rates in the world.

These figures can't be attributed entirely to periodic abstinence, or the rhythm method — admittedly an uncertain means of birth control. Contraceptives are obviously being employed as widely in the advanced Catholic as in the non-Catholic countries, regardless of the Vatican's views.

Where the encyclical may be effective is in some Catholic countries whose governments have been unsure whether to promote birth control actively. Pope Paul's appeal to governments to reject artificial contraception may be enough to make the difference between an active, government-supported program of birth control in, say, Bolivia, and official inaction.

The Vatican itself has been in a dilemma, torn between its recognition that the population explosion in some regions is dangerous, and its opposition to artificial contraception. No wonder Pope Paul's preparation of the encyclical on birth control has been described as his most trying ordeal.

Editor, Citizen: The rules regulating appearance in today's high schools are far too rigid. To quote from my high school announcement: "Modes of dress and grooming which are far removed from the accepted norms of our society automatically reflect on the reputation of the school. Any institution which depends on taxpayers for financial support cannot afford to ignore public opinion."

What are the "accepted norms" and which people constitute "our society?" The privilege of a student to dress in a manner which reflects his individual tastes should be recognized.

DAVID CHAPMAN

Ottawa.

Backs Campeau

Editor, Citizen: It is unrealistic to assume that numerous other towers would follow Place de Ville. The vast number of brilliant architects in Ottawa have as much at heart the appearance of their city as anyone else. For appearance's sake, the NCC buildings on Wellington Street and at other sites are by no means as pleasing to the eye as the Skyline complex, considering limited uses of land.

The Ottawa chapter of the Ontario Association of Architects has not opposed Place de Ville.

For several months all government parties concerned were aware of Mr. Campeau's intentions. It appears that only Mr. Campeau can make up his mind.

AIME R. CHARBONNEAU

Ottawa.

Fly swatter

Editor, Citizen: No, Mr. King, Mr. Trudeau did not use a hammer on a fly (Citizen, Sept. 20). He used a newspaper.

(Mrs.) SHEILA BENNETT

Ottawa.

Editor, Citizen: Charles King's invitation to keep writing (Citizen, Sept. 16) is welcome. Indeed, I would like to turn out an anti-liberal column to balance his own: that would really test the tolerance of your newspaper. I recall that even great Charles Lynch did not escape having his knuckles rapped by you because he balked slightly at the liberal line on bilingualism, biculturalism and Anglo-Saxon self-abasement.

In reply to Mr. King's comments, I would like to point out that revolution must be judged on its merits, including the character of the revolutionaries.

The Declaration of Independence, with its "decent respect to the opinions of mankind" and careful enumeration of the grievances of colonial America, is in ludicrous contrast to leftist and "activist" agitation. The latter's hysterical and totalitarian spirit, their assumption of having discovered morality, and their ignorance of history, is not reassuring.

Even an imperfect society has the right to defend itself against such people.

PHILIP BELGRAVE

Ottawa.

More the better

Editor, Citizen: The idea that the number of people in this world is a liability is wrong. Communities, social groups and nations fail to realize that their greatest wealth lies in the people.

The idea of manpower, not birth control should be emphasized. If a community or a nation with a large population takes a positive attitude toward life, the "population boom" may not be a problem.

Leaders of the nation should attempt to exploit the best potential in every person, however small it may be. If this potential, turned into action by each individual himself, is multiplied by thousands and millions, the greatness of that community or nation will swell boundlessly. The negative and unrealistic attitude taken by many people today is the root cause of many problems in the world.

KRISHNA RAJAN

Ottawa.

A note to correspondents

The Citizen publishes only signed correspondence. No pseudonyms are permitted. Writers are requested to provide their address and telephone number to facilitate checking for authenticity and accuracy. These details will not be published. All letters are subject to editing for length, general interest and good taste. They should be limited to a maximum of 200 words.